



**Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action Group**

**June 2026 newsletter**

## **Update on our latest activities**

After the recent local government elections, Ealing Reclaim Social Care Action Group (ERSCAG) wrote to all the newly elected and re-elected Councillors introducing our work and we received several positive responses. It is particularly reassuring to hear from individual Councillors who, because of their professional roles, or their family connections, are personally aware of some of the challenges facing social care provision. Hopefully this lived experience will be brought to bear usefully in coming years in the work of the various Council committees overseeing social care.

The first meeting of the Health and Adult Social Services Scrutiny Panel (HASSSP) in the new municipal year was held (11 June) and ERSCAG submitted questions about the closure of local groups, such as Dementia Concern and the BeFriending project; wages for residential care workers; and digital exclusion.

Cllr Paul Driscoll now has the Cabinet responsibility for Healthy Equal Lives, and asked for a briefing from ERSCAG on our concerns (19 June). Apart from introducing our work, we discussed his manifesto's commitment to the creation of an inter-departmental Access Group at senior Council level; digital exclusion; Blue Badge arrangements; the Real Living Wage for all care-workers – another manifesto commitment; assessments, and our concerns about the voice of the user/resident being squeezed out – albeit perhaps quite unintentionally - in the current reorganisation of the NHS.

In a desire for a greater understanding of, and cooperation with local groups, ERSCAG met with the CEO of Ealing MENCAP (10 June) and representatives of the Ealing Care Coop (12 June). With Ealing MENCAP, we discussed shared concerns about daycare provision, the importance of co-production efforts, the need to make sure the voices of people with learning disabilities are heard, and the significant emerging issue with older family carers no longer able to support their children as before. Ealing Care Coop alerted us to work they are doing in a wider national campaign "Free Homecare" which was very interesting – and of course is one of ERSCAG's objectives, so we will liaise regularly.

## **Campaigns – current or upcoming national campaigns and events**

End Social Care Disgrace organised an excellent public meeting (18 June) on the topic of Hidden Voices but this time with the focus on older people (a recording link will be included in our next newsletter).

A Silver Voices members' briefing noted "*Campaigners from Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) are taking the Government to court after it refused to follow recommendations made by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman*". In another briefing – 26/26 – it reports: "*The government set up the Second Pensions*

Commission to look at the future of pensions and retirement savings in the UK. The Commission has just published an Interim Report on which it is seeking views; final report due in Spring 2027 - see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pensions-2050-evidence-and-future-priorities-interim-report>. And (in Briefing 27/26) see petition, with 115,000 signatures, opposing the forced switchover from phone landlines: <https://us.list-manage.com/kvH8qgcRUcy?e=cad402e9a3&c2id=5e64566a9d085222042bf28afb0094e7>

Inclusion London issues a quarterly newsletter – to sign up directly – see <https://us.list-manage.com/1CPgTrjWCo4?e=2d4e6e22e1&c2id=ebfb1154604a5c0550476d43a1d0742b>. The June edition covered Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans Toolkit, and a campaign to insist on better provision for disabled people (41% of the people who died in the Grenfell fire were disabled); a petition to improve access to parliament by people with learning difficulties; and the Timms review into Personal Independence Payments (PIPs).

If you are a UNITE trade union member, or member of their Retired Members Group you may be interested in the social care campaign that they are launching – for more info contact [UFWE@unitetheunion.org](mailto:UFWE@unitetheunion.org)

## **Latest developments – locally and nationally**

### **Carers**

- Carers Week was marked this year 8-14 June with a number of events both locally and further afield – for more info see [www.carersweek.org](http://www.carersweek.org)
- And Ealing Council's newsletter (15 June) talked of a Young Carers' Project - <https://www.brentfordccst.com/en/young-carers>

### **Care-workers:**

- <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2026/may/31/indian-citizen-post-brexit-visa-scheme-employment-tribunal-uk>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2026/jun/29/leave-to-remain-care-workers-campaigners-mike-tapp-shabana-mahmood>

### **Disability**

- An important court decision was made about the deprivation of liberty and the narrowing of safeguards - for discussion see UK Human Rights Blog (15 June), and <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jun/14/the-guardian-view-on-disability-rights-the-removal-of-legal-safeguards-brings-risks>; and the government guidance issued in response to the court ruling [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-definition-of-deprivation-of-liberty?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm\\_source=1496aafe-4a72-4f57-9915-4b70f7aa01a5&utm\\_content=weekly](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/changes-to-the-definition-of-deprivation-of-liberty?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications-topic&utm_source=1496aafe-4a72-4f57-9915-4b70f7aa01a5&utm_content=weekly)
- [https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/jun/15/disabled-people-with-lifelong-conditions-facing-unnecessary-pip-reassessments?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/jun/15/disabled-people-with-lifelong-conditions-facing-unnecessary-pip-reassessments?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)
- <https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk-government-fail-disabled-people-kier-starmer-inequalities/?ref=weekly-newsletter>

### **Funding and finances:**

- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/jun/28/private-equity-uk-public-services-care-homes-children>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/jun/28/1-in-every-11-spent-uk-public-contractors-private-equity>

## NHS:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/jun/03/gps-in-england-too-overloaded-to-help-older-people-at-risk-of-falling-say-mps>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2026/jun/18/nhs-patients-face-worst-drug-shortages-on-record-say-pharmacists-and-gps>

## Reports/Events:

- July is Disability Pride month and West London Trade Union Club is organising a free Disability Equality Training session. It will be an informal session with plenty of opportunity for discussion - Saturday 18 July 2026, 10:00am-12:30pm, 33-35 Acton High Street W3 6ND, in the bar. Access details: [www.wltuc.com/access](http://www.wltuc.com/access). Free tea and coffee. Register on: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/disability-equality-training-tickets-1990652867313> or for more information – email [equality@wltuc.com](mailto:equality@wltuc.com).
- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2026/jun/19/disability-by-david-turner-review-a-revelatory-new-history>

## Your Help Needed

Social Care Future is organising a "Big Check In" which has been “set up with and led by people who draw on health and social care support with a view to developing an independent public record of how disabled people and those who require care and support experience accessing health and social care”. See <https://r1.technology-trust-news.org/c/AQjU5hUQh42iAhj6qZMZILqagBUoicjzCDkyP8CKT2Rbu5Z0D1VtYlPGGM2SeXi5gAsi5blm8L8b>

## Sources of advice and help

In meetings with Councillors, ERSCAG is often reminded of the value of individual constituents already having raised social care related issues with them. Councillors want to do the best for those in their wards, so if you have a particular concern that is not getting addressed by the relevant staff, contact your local Councillor for help. The Council website directs you to your ward Councillor by address/postcode [https://maps.ealing.gov.uk/Webreports/Cluster/Cluster\\_MyCouncillor.html](https://maps.ealing.gov.uk/Webreports/Cluster/Cluster_MyCouncillor.html)

People also, when very concerned about a particular service, have approached the Local Government Ombudsman ([www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk)). Complainants are not likely to be always happy with the results since, in June alone, four Ombudsman rulings about Ealing Council [London Borough of Ealing \(25 006 446\)](#); [London Borough of Ealing \(25 023 952\)](#), [London Borough of Ealing \(25 027 529\)](#), and [London Borough of Ealing \(25 026 742\)](#) proved unsuccessful for different reasons. Three referred to Blue Badge applications, and a fourth concerned the financing of a care home placement. Nevertheless, it is good to know that there is an external body to which one can make representations if need be.

Ealing Today reporting in early June on the closure of BeFriend Ealing after three decades of work with older and isolated residents both reported the sad news <https://www.ealingtoday.co.uk/default.asp?section=community&spage=common/houscharity030.htm> and mentioned a couple of alternative local drop-in centres: [Barnabites Memory Café](#); [MindFood](#); and [Solace Centre \(West London NHS Trust\)](#)

Local MP Dr Rupa Huq (Ealing Central and Acton) organised a session (12 June) for local community groups signposting them to possible funding sources and afterwards circulated a list of useful websites for anyone looking to fund their activism: [www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding](http://www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/funding); the National Lottery Community

Fund: <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/funding-programmes>; National Lottery Heritage Fund: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding/how-to-apply>; Arts Council England: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/ProjectGrants/national-lottery-project-grants-guidance-library> & <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/dycp>; Sport England - <https://www.sportengland.org/funding-and-campaigns/our-funding/movement-fund/more-about-movement-fund>; and the British Film Institute: [www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support](http://www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support)

## **Social care over the longer term**

National responsibility for social care seems a bit uncertain at the moment in light of the Prime Minister's recent resignation. Will James Murray (our local MP for Ealing North) remain Secretary of State for Health and Social Care after the election of a new Prime Minister? Open Democracy developed a list of "Tasks for the new Secretary of State" – and noted of James Murray's appointment that the UK was on its "*eighth Health Secretary in five years*" <https://www.opendemocracy.net/r/6e69a515?m=90457227-be66-4cdd-b6b3-2f0b9386ed31>.

And who will be the Prime Minister and what will be their attitude to social care? A Guardian article (<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2026/jun/04/i-wouldnt-flinch-burnham-on-social-care-markets-brexit-and-the-prospect-of-a-general-election>) talking to Andy Burnham on 4 June noted: "*Burnham, who first tried to change the social care system when he was Labour's health secretary in 2009, said there was an urgent need to fix the crisis. Then, he had planned a levy on estates to pay for universal social care, while in recent years he has talked about replacing inheritance tax with a progressive "care levy" to fund a national care service*". Citing him directly, the article went on: "*It is urgent, the need to fix social care, and I personally would look at all of the kind of implications of that in relation to inheritance tax and care charges and everything. I wouldn't flinch from it,*" he said."

Whoever wins the election, there is bound to be some debate about Labour government policies regarding health and social care. Wes Streeting talked of the need to be more radical in future party manifestos and – for example - banish 'private equity sharks' from social care (<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/jun/18/private-equity-social-care-wes-streeting-labour>). In the same 4 June Guardian article cited above, Andy Burnham is said to have "*suggested bringing forward the Casey review, which is tasked with drawing up proposals, including on funding, from 2028. He said he would like it published by the end of 2026, focusing on measures that could be implemented quickly.*"

Any readers of this newsletter who are active in party politics are encouraged to think ahead to your party-political conferences - most of which occur in early Autumn. Would it be worth you putting in a draft resolution on social care to ensure the topic is discussed at national conference? Please let us know of any such plans!

**[Check out our website - www.erscag.org.uk](http://www.erscag.org.uk)**  
**For more information contact ERSCAG Secretary**  
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